

INTERRAUPT



newsletter of
computer people for peace

march, 1972



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EXCLUSIVE --- This issue only!!!
CPP Awards for 1971
Predictions for 1972

CPP

Computer People for Peace The Dolphin Center
137a West 14 Street New York City 10011

November 30, 1971

Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Hoang
Centre de Calcut
Hanoi
Democratic Republic of Vietnam

Dear Mr. Nguyen Ngoc Hoang:

We of Computer People for Peace recently spoke with Chandler Davis about his trip to Vietnam. He spoke of your requests for information concerning the use of computers in your country.

CPP is a group formed about four years ago to deal with the Vietnam War issues, and now is concerned with other social issues as well. Our membership is primarily people connected with the computer field. Over the years we have participated in demonstrations and actions against the war. Recently we have given our support to the People's Peace Treaty. We consider ourselves at peace with the people of Vietnam and feel that exchange of information between the peoples of the two countries is an important step towards peace.

Our understanding of your areas of interest is as follows:

1. Operation and management of small and medium scale computers, i.e., computers with memory capacities of 4000 to 16000 words, and paper tape or punched card input.
2. Applications of computers to the following areas: process control, city planning, economic planning and medical application.
3. Engineering information relating to the practical design of process control systems.

We would appreciate your comments on the areas listed above and on any areas not mentioned that you feel are significant.

We soon will be sending a bibliography of books in the computer area which we think will be of interest to you, and also some of these books.

We hope that these will be of use to you and that this will be the beginning of a long and fruitful association.

Yours in Peace,
CPP Vietnam Cooperation Committee

P.S. Because of the difficulties with the U.S. Government, we are sending this letter through ~~Mr. [Name]~~, who has agreed to act as an intermediary. We request that at the present time, you send our mail to him for forwarding to us.

INTERRUPT

NEWSLETTER OF
COMPUTER PEOPLE FOR PEACE

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PEACE NOTES

THE COVER - LETTER TO VIETNAM

In sending the Vietnamese computer workers this initial statement of support, we had two problems. One was that we had almost no idea of what they needed or of the state of their technology.

The second problem was that nearly all of us use our skills on commercial applications, designed to increase business profitability. This kind of help was surely not what the Vietnamese would need.

Our lack of experience in doing meaningful work that serves people's needs meant we could offer little to an emerging nation. We tried to propose areas in which we felt we could be of help.

The committee felt it would be a wonderful thing if that big dumb machine (the computer) could really be used as a positive force.

We expect a reply soon from the Vietnamese. Anyone with any skills or ideas to offer, please contact:

Vietnam Cooperation Committee
Computer People for Peace
Dolphin Center
137A W. 14th St.
New York, N.Y. 10011

WHA... WHAT'S HAPPENING

The FBI began operating its 'criminal' history data bank on 11/29/71. At this writing 20 states are linked to the system, with well over 100 state and local law enforcement agencies having access. The FBI refused to release a copy of the data bank regulations, or to answer questions regarding it. One spokesman said that recorded violations would include most felonies and some misdemeanors. Arrests not included were said to be juvenile offenses, drunkenness and disturbing the peace. Agencies receiving data include the IRS, the Alcohol and Tax Division of the Treasury, the Customs Service, etc., etc.

Meanwhile, the D.C. system (WALES) caused one man to be falsely identified and arrested. Though released after 10 days, he lost his job and apartment.

..the horrifying aspect of 1984 is our willing, nay eager, acceptance of it.



In November, CPP wrote to the Senate, urging the Judiciary Committee to "reject the nomination of William Rehnquist to the Supreme Court", based on his lack of respect for "necessary constitutional guarantees."

The latest addition to the Supreme Court has stated that "self-discipline on the part of the Executive branch will provide an answer to virtually all of the legitimate complaints against excesses of information gathering."

CPP's complaint is that Rehnquist failed to demonstrate that "self-discipline" while he was part of the Executive branch!



Military Contracts:

To Honeywell. \$51.3 million for computers for the World-Wide Military Command and Control System and the portion of the Intelligence Data Handling System for Wimax.

To Logicon. \$4 million for software associated with the Minuteman ICBM.

To SDC. \$19 million for add-on software for TIPI, Tactical Information Processing and Interpretation system.

To CSC. \$1.7 million for software involved with the Safeguard (ABM) system.

XMAS EOJ

On December 13, a Monday, at five minutes before closing, my supervisor called me into his office to tell me that my job (at Insurance Services Office, NYC) was "terminated, effective immediately, for coming in late this morning, taking a two hour lunch today, and for general attitude".

But the real reason for my abrupt dismissal was a Christmas Tree. Twenty or thirty of us had spontaneously put up a "People's Christmas Tree" when we had been refused permission to hang our home-made ornaments--stars, bells, angels--on the office tree.

The people's tree was covered with whatever anyone wanted to contribute, except for store-bought decorations. Stars, bells, angels and garlands made of tab cards were the first to go up. These were joined by poems about the company, photographs of management cut out from the company newsletter, a printout of a clenched fist, one of every kind of cigarette smoked in the office, magazine cutouts of people's favorite liquors, and a list of the 22 people who had quit or been fired in 1971 (more than 25% turnover), to whom the tree was dedicated.

Within a week, one supervisor had forbidden any of his staff from entering the vicinity of the tree (next to my desk). Other supervisors had asked or suggested that the tree be modified or taken down. One employee was so offended by a sexually risqué poem that he secretly took it down. He was found out by the tree vigilantes. We had a long, loud argument that resulted in such decorations coming off the tree.

On Friday, December 10, the thirty of us who had contributed to the tree were called into conference with our supervisors. The meeting started at 3:30. My supervisor started the discussion by ordering the tree down by 4:00. We refused, and demanded to know why.

One of the supervisors explained that all of the supervisors had just completed a management course. This course had taught them how to handle a "Christmas Tree Incident".

For several minutes after that, I had a shouting match with the supervisors. To me, the episode was another example of the dehumanization of the programmers that our company had been waging for the past year. The number of telephones had been reduced, our work and storage areas had been halved, our progress reports had become more and more tedious, our salaries had been frozen, and now we were not going to be allowed to keep our own Christmas Tree.

Someone had to be fired to explain all the time and trouble management had with a tiny, scrawny tree. That was me. Yet after the meeting on Friday, and until the New Year, the tree stood. The managers' pictures were removed, as were the poems, the fist, the cigarettes, and the liquor pictures, but the most embarrassing item, the dedication list, stayed up, disguised but recognizable to all who knew about the tree. It was lengthened by my name, and that of another worker fired the next week.

POST SCRIPT

A week and a half later, I crashed the office Christmas party. My ex-supervisor approached me, put his arm around my shoulders, and announced to the party-goers around us that, "if Ken would get a hair cut and wear a suit, he could get a job anywhere."

by Ken Thomas

AWARD: To industry workers who have made optical memories a near reality. We always knew it was done with mirrors.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The Cathedral of Tomorrow, an independent ministry, ordered an NCR 200 to handle church mailings, provide receipts for contributions and produce statistical info.

....and automated prayers?

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PREDICTION: On-line terminals will connect the White House directly with the bench, not the Supreme Court, the Miami Dolphin's.

IBM

Last month we announced the beginning of Project IBM, a long, hard look at the nation's sixth biggest corporation. We quickly learned that "no company is an island," and that in fact to study IBM or any other giant, it is vital to place it in context with its partners in profit, the other big corporations. Thus, while we haven't been at it long enough to give you an in depth picture of the Big One, we'd like to introduce you to one of its dearest friends, RCA.

The prominence of RCA in a report on "Project IBM" might not make complete sense, until you stop to consider that the biggest event to happen to IBM in 1971 was the permanent withdrawal of its leading competitor from the marketplace. After an intense seven-year campaign of trying to sell its Spectra 70 to disgruntled IBM users, RCA has pulled up stakes and folded the employment tent over 10,000 employees' heads. (The story on page 5 is typical of the personal tragedies which RCA and, indirectly, IBM is responsible for.) By mid-September last year, RCA had fired over 2,000 people,

or 20% of the computer-system group, with many more to be dumped just in time for Christmas. For example, the Sarnoff labs in Princeton have cut personnel 10% across the board in all departments, including supposedly non-computer ones, such as semiconductors.

The people fired cut across all economic lines, and included a scientist who had been employed by RCA for 17 years. Evidently, "professionalism" wasn't much help in saving jobs for these people, for when it came to profit time, the company decided they were expendable components in the same category as vacuum tubes, and obsoleted them.

Like circling vultures, the other companies on IBM's periphery have descended to pick at RCA's remains. Sperry Rand's Univac Division has bought up the lion's share, doubling its fraction of the domestic market to 8%. What a comment on the industry as a whole, when the No.

AWARD: For the greatest contribution to the Computer Industry (i.e. IBM). To RCA...for getting out. (A heretofore unpublished rumor gives us the real reason for RCA's exit: Their election system predicted Ky by a landslide.)

Doublethink

A lonely figure walks pensively along the Cape Cod shore, the photography skillfully highlighting the keywords: pensive, alone.

The background music, perhaps a Scarlatti sonata, is tasteful, elite and, again, the solo instrument highlights "alone".

Voiceover: No one can take the ultimate weight of decision making from your shoulders.

Pause.

Knowing the real story can ease the burden.

Long pause. Flash IBM logo.

IBM, Not just data, reality.

After watching this ad and its variations, carefully 'programmed' for the evening news and pro football (managers viewing as it were), we are moved to comment. There is so much we can say. We will say very little.

Bullshit. IBM. Not data, not reality. Profits.

Two company accounts for so little of the whole pie. Here is another clear example that to talk about any computer company is to talk about IBM.

To get an idea of RCA's desperation to unload its computers (and employees), they practically gave it all away to Univac for \$70 million cash and \$12 million a year for five years. The first year's expected revenue is estimated by Fortune magazine at \$250 million, and the actual value of the purchased equipment is put at about ten times the sale price.

With the same income, but without all those surplus employees soaking it up, Univac should do real well in its first year as competitor-in-chief to IBM.

AWARD: For cost-cutting. To the 3400 companies providing detailed information to IBM for its multiple legal defenses. IBM has been able to eliminate its entire staff of competitive analysts.

SPECTRA 70 SPECTRE 71

RCA's sudden pull-out from the computer field is well-known but, as in most corporate machinations, the people story goes untold. The experience related here is but one random sample:

"My husband and I were delighted with the news we were given. We could put down roots, keep our children in school, buy a house convenient to my terrific job and my husband's work. We love California. There was, therefore, relief and a sense of security when RCA announced the creation of an industrial planning park in Palo Alto, designated the site and told us that the complex would be well established within six months.

We shopped around for a house and finally settled on one we liked, within commuting distance for both of us. We never got to live in all the rooms. In less than five months from their original announcement, RCA closed its existing facility and offered employees two choices: lay-off or relocation cross-country to New Jersey.

Jack and I just didn't know what to do. California was our geographical choice but the already scarce job market on the West Coast was worsened when RCA made its move. Reluctantly, very unhappily, Jack trekked East under RCA's prescribed time schedule, January, 1971.

I was left to quit my own position, deal with the house and belongings, pull my pre-teen children out of school and make all necessary arrangements to move. This caused a forced separation of almost three months. Jack soloed in a motel. Once in New Jersey, RCA 'appreciated' assurance from their employees that they would stay. They encouraged house-buying by offering a one month additional salary to help with the down payment and further threw in 'closing costs' (about \$80) just to get us into proper American hock. I WONDER if RCA owns residential real estate in New Jersey?

We bought a house within two weeks after arrival in April and most importantly put the boys in the local school. We were together again, but when dropped into an environment of RCA's choosing I found myself with no facilities for developing my photographs, no local friends. Utter isolation. Insecurity. Slow adjustment.

Starting late August, rumors about RCA hummed around us. Jack's boss called a special meeting to swear on his job that they were totally unfounded.

Two weeks later on Friday, September 17, after the stock market closed, Sarnoff made a public announcement--RCA was pulling out of the computer field. They went out of business with a tax write-off of \$250 million.

A staggering week-end. They did it - now what - what? We could only wait for Monday when RCA would address its employees, so we would know what they planned for us. Instead there was confusion, hope, despair but no message from management. We just became non-existent.

September and October went by with no news. Thousands of us pondered. The field's famine further discouraged us. Should Jack sit around doing maintenance work at RCA's whim waiting or should he scout around and try to pick off a job in this flooded market?

In November, Memorex, California, selected about 40 workers to go out West. Jack was among those chosen. Our house out there had never been sold. We had to decide fast. We accepted. Memorex offered a flat 10¢ a mile for Jack to make the move. The boys were once again pulled out of school and the older one drove out with his dad. Eight year old Sam, our cats and I stayed behind. As employees newly-hired from RCA shuttled West to Memorex they were surprised with still another situation. Within a matter of a week or two, sometimes even before they officially started working, they were once again unemployed. Memorex had decided to dump the project they were hired for. Meanwhile RCA made its deal with Univac in late November, still with no official policy about disposal of RCA workers. It wasn't until mid-December that employees finally

Cont'd on page 13

RCA, on January 28, 1972, demonstrated the first of two new computers it's continuing to develop for aerospace and defense applications. The machine demonstrated is a compact, command and control system for military use.

Will they abandon television...except for 'monitors'?

PHASE II VIEWS

Phase II seems to have given us aphasia. Computer people who have never been fazed by the economy are now being phased by the economy and can't come to grips with it. After all, a 2.5% 'limit' on price increases sounds equitable when compared with a 5.5% wage hike limit...what can be so terrible?

Well, even neglecting the ability of business to define 'new products' (price uncontrolled), and to play other accounting games...even neglecting the unmonitored policies of local mom and pop stores and the complete inability to decipher Base Price Levels in supermarkets, we still have grief. Price hikes cascade; raw material increases lead to justifiably greater increases in finished goods. And government, itself, is uncontrolled in setting its prices (i.e. taxes). Maybe you noticed the increased withholding from your pay--you are helping government's cash flow by lousing up your own.

A pack of cigarettes in NYC now costs up to 75¢. Subway fares increased by 16%; tolls by 100% or more. Businesses can, in fact, cite tax cost increases as justification to exceed the guidelines. Workers can't.

And in computers? There are only three ways to increase profits: Increase the amount of business being done (that helps profit, not percentage of profit); increase prices; decrease costs. In our looking-glass economy we Alices have to run damn hard just to survive. Growth is a desirable, though unpromising avenue for profit increase. Price increases are feasible but, strangely, only for the very big or very small. The middle guy feels legitimately constrained by the guidelines. He figures to get caught.

So that leaves cost cutting and that means us. The typical company is using Phase II as an excuse to bring the computer personnel into line. Layoffs or attrition - despite no drop in revenues. Review periods are extended to 18 months or longer. New job classifications are established with formalized wage ceilings so that employees can 'top out'. The impact on hiring is also clear. People in the 10-13K range are in demand; 14-18K have very hard times finding work; above 18K is a question of luck, and there is no market for the trainee.

The behavior of the industry has traditionally been to provide steady wage increases. As people rose to too high a level, there was always management or a new company to join. No more. The insecurity of the job market will cause us to swallow the new wage policies. It is hard for anger to compete with fear.

In the long run this jolt to our complacency may awaken us to the nature of our economy and our place in it. Meanwhile, vote for Nixon in '72. Never change dicks in the middle of a screw.

Frank Alexander

PREDICTION: The 'Phase-2-gon' papers will be published, revealing that the Nixon economic game plan was developed from computer survey, synthesis and simulation. Also revealed will be the astonishing fact that, through an input error, the entire plan was based on a model of the pre-1900 British economy. While the administration will refuse comment, four new grand juries will be formed to 'investigate' the bug, the bug-ee and the buggers.

One source will indicate that 'decisions are more important than data'. He will leave the government to write advertising copy for IBM.

An independent investigator will further discover that regardless of the input model, the output will remain the same. He will be arrested.

The Juvenile Court in Jackson County, Kansas is using an IBM 360/40 to handle its cases. Plans are ultimately to handle predictions of successful supervision probability, probation or detention and recidivism in each case.

..don't play hooky in Jackson.

PREDICTION: We have grown used to the bit, the byte and even the nibble. Increasing acquisition of the little guys by the big guy will yield a new term: The Gobble.



Kiss the Girls Goodbye

Sorry But cute as they are key punch girls are thing of the past. You don't need them anymore. Thanks (or no dependin on how you look at it) to

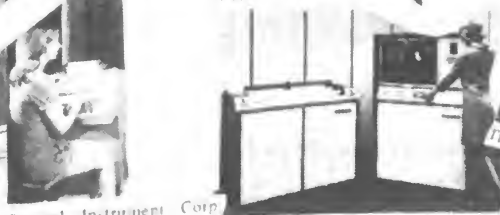


NOISY NO M



IT'S BEEN
QUIET
WITH A GATES
Plot

BELL & HOWELL
Disc File System



California Computer Products Inc.

CAMPUS

TO: All Students and Faculty

FROM: Don Backstrom

After seeing the relatively poor turn-out for my computer classes this trimester, I realized that it might be a good idea for me to try to explain my attitude towards studying computer science.

I realize that this is not quite the M.I.T. of the Green Mountains but I think that my "Computer Workshop" course is not without merit for Goddard. Computers are a multi-billion dollar industry. They pervade the military, governmental, educational, and business sectors of our society. The FBI, CIA, ITT, HEW, CID, and IRS could not exist without NCR, CDC, RCA, XDS, DEC, and IBM. The people who own the money in this country (the same ones who gave us Vietnam, ABM, Amchitka, Laos, Cambodia, Greece, Lake Erie, Attica, New York City air, the Playboy Club, and white bread) realize the incredible potential power of the stored program digital computer as a weapon/tool and its increasing application to "all phases of modern life." The problems are that you can't run away from them and that it's your life they're talking about. Machine "intelligence" seems not too far around the corner; monitoring of people by machine and information system is already here. Nixon writes his letters by computer; political candidates determine their platforms and gauge different acceptance levels for "stands" or lack of them by voter simulation and modeling by computer. Your new local gas station or MacDonald's was probably located there as the result of a marketing simulation of the area by...; your taxes are figured and checked by...; your children will be educated by...; your driving and arrest record is stored by and available from...; your future is damned sure going to be shaped to a large extent by how people, in the next few years, learn to deal with...the computer.

Operation Igloo White is no joke: the electronic battlefield is here now and the jungles of Indo-China are only the testing grounds. I think it's time we started to understand this most powerful weapon in our enemy's arsenal and determine if (and how) we can use it for people as a tool.

I don't pretend to offer a complete, easy to learn, in ten-simple-lessons-even-if-you-can't-make-it-to-class-this-morning-because-it-was-too-cold, course in computers for people who think that "getting" an education is like watching TV. I do try to teach a series of sequential classes that could help you to overcome your technological superstitions and understand what the computer really is, where it came from, where it's going, and where it's dragging us. My class is designed for people who know little or nothing about the computer.

It won't be too many days after tomorrow and your color TV will be an interactive computer terminal. It's not "love it or leave it" -- you won't be able to get away from it.

PREDICTION: IBM '72.

March: Announcement of System 380, the 380-930 and the 380-935.

April: Support is withdrawn for the 380 and the new System 390-945 is announced.

July: The 390 proves to be short-lived. But IBM now hints of a new 5th generation.

(Remember when we were only going round in

8

circles with the encompassing 360?)

September: IBM says the 5th generation is almost here.

October: IBM says hold your breath, begin accepting orders.

December: IBM says don't hold your breath, announces record earnings in 1972.

Interrupt IONS

Dear Sirs:

For the second straight yr. the Communications of the ACM is sponsoring a Student Paper Competition for undergraduate and high school students. Cash prizes will be awarded, and the best papers will be published in a forthcoming issue of the Communications.

We would like to publicize the competition as widely as possible in order to encourage a greater number of entries this year. Since Interrupt reaches a large number of students and educators, we ask for your help in publicizing the competition.

We would like to emphasize that this is not a run-of-the-mill call for papers. Our objective is to increase student awareness of the professional aspects of computer science, and to make computer scientists and professionals aware of the work being done by students.

Yours truly,
L. R., ACM Student Editorial Committee

Collective Response

We would be delighted to publicize anything that shows ACM in its true light, which the above letter does. The key words in the letter are "competition", "cash prizes" and "professional". These words are among those that create imperialism, Vietnamism, racism and public irresponsibility.

CPP's objective is to increase awareness, student and worker, of the social implications of computer science and to make students and workers aware of the military, police and imperialistic work done by computer scientists and professionals."

Interrupt invites all readers to submit papers on the social implications of computers non-competitively to us and we will try to publish them all. Which is why we reach so many people.

Dear Sir:

I am a student at Oregon State University in Computer science. At one time I had hoped that the computer industry would be able to help man in today's world. But now with such leaders as IBM I can see that the industry has followed the other large industries.

OSU has just started a student chapter of the ACM. I think that through such groups it might be possible to give the up-coming computer people the desire to ask themselves about the consequences of their work.

Any help that you could give me would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you

Carl First
Corvallis, Ore.

Dear Carl,

Many of us in CPP also sought to make the computer industry and the corporations we worked for serve the people rather than warmakers, bureaucrats and profit makers. We turned to our "professional" associations like ACM and were disappointed with their response.

ACM has consistently refused to address itself to social issues in any meaningful way or to be responsible toward the public effected by the technology it promotes. ACM's annual conventions, for example, are merely cloaks for selling corporate technology to military and industrial clients.

ACM uses the myth of "professionalism" as an excuse for neutrality on public issues where neutrality is only another word for supporting corporate and government power. ACM decided, for example, to take no position on the war or the ABM debate.

So, for help, we suggest you look elsewhere. CPP was started because of the failure of groups like ACM to respond to the consequences of technology. We believe that technology should serve the people and therefore that the people, not "professionals" should control it.

And, brother, CPP is not a "Sir".
Peace, CPP

The trials of JOB

Hi dear computer people for peace,

I read about your beautiful work organizing workshops and actions against the war, racism and poverty.

I would appreciate being put on your mailing list to receive INTERRUPT, as we are very concerned in our college in establishing alternative lifestyles in our society.

I would also appreciate any other informative material you may have on the themes of war, racism and poverty, around which we are planning to build several social action programs.

Yours sincerely,

John Micallief
Mt. Angel College, Ore.

Comrades,

I have worked as a computer programmer for over three years now, and during the last year have helped to organize a local SESPA/Science for the People group. There are several programmers who are marginally involved in our SESPA activities, who might be very interested in CPP. I am enclosing \$10 for my membership in CPP. I understand this includes free copies of any pamphlets you have put out, as well as a subscription to Interrupt. Is this correct?

We are teaching a course at the university this spring, The Social Uses and Misuses of Science. Because of this course, and because I would like to turn on more of my fellow programmers, I would like for you to send me three or four copies of any literature you have put out, as well as a complete set of back issues of Interrupt. I don't have much money, so if you could help me get more things started here among computer people by sending this stuff free, I would appreciate it. Send everything you can in any case, and if necessary, I'll try to send you more money later.

Yours in struggle,
Steve Hollis
Lawrence, Kansas

The American EDP workplace contains many situations which illustrate the way in which management perpetuates the illusion of class distinctions between blue and white-collar workers. The most notorious of these of course are the working conditions under which people have to labor. Despite the phenomenal technological advances of the last two decades, (man on the moon, etc.), health and safety problems among workers have increased at an alarming rate --- according to the National Safety Council, last year one out of every three workers missed at least one day of work because of work-related injuries! While the worst of these problems occur in heavy industry, such as mining, autos, oil, and chemicals, office workers and others in the DP and communications industry are far from immune. Although by comparison, a miner with black lung suffers unbearable physical discomfort, a middle-aged office worker who is forced to quit his job because of a heart attack is faced with similar economic difficulties if he has a family to support, especially if he has to compete with thousands of healthier out-of-work people.

Health and employment problems feed on each other in a uniquely American way. Our economic scene is one of inflated prices, depressed wages, and mounting unemployment. Management's answer is an insane drive for increased productivity which has fostered a dog-eat-dog situation among computer workers where thousands of highly skilled unemployed people are forced to compete ferociously for the few remaining jobs. One result is a work environment in which disabilities due to emotional stress, heart and cardiovascular problems, and ulcers have reached an all-time high.

The January Fortune magazine contains a major article on stress-related illness. The fact that a management-oriented prestige journal features such a story shows how serious the problem is, but also gives the false impression that these problems are unique to the managerial class, and not to blue-collar workers. The same logic encourages white-collar workers to believe that as a class apart they are immune to the occupational health problems of non-"professionals."

(continued on page 15)



PROFITS or PEOPLE ?

The computer is the largest technological monster of our time. It affects each of us individually, as well as groups, countries and wars. It is the tool of the military/industrial/medical/governmental complex that charts the world's next day crises.

"One movement group born of this technological world is Computer People for Peace, which published these three invaluable booklets....

"The most dangerous aspect of all computer banks is that no individual knows what is recorded after his or her name and social security number. The booklet on Data Banks explains what is going on in the computer field, how the computer actually functions and the invasion of privacy and resulting repression which already exists.

"Technological Warlords" dissects three corporations that loom large in the computer area. An important chapter touches on the subject of the Pentagon's "electronic battlefield." Detailed is the technological equipment developed for use in Vietnam and how it is used. There is very little going on in Indochina, it turns out, that is not technologically oriented and run by computers. The demand to end the war, bring home the troops and get out has an element missing. The U.S. must take all its computerized gadgets out as well.

"The third booklet, "Health: Big Business for Computers," documents how large corporations have entered the medical field to take advantage of a developing \$63 billion health industry. They quite naturally carry forth the priority of profit-making. Computer usage for direct patient care is rare and when used is only available to those who can afford very expensive medical assistance.

"The major themes raised by Computer People for Peace are that computers are here to stay and so we must understand how they affect our lives." The Guardian

Teachers, Students -
Use in courses on
current society

Order Now - coupon on back page

PREDICTION: Government and credit data banks will guarantee individual privacy. This will be accomplished by a presidential edict redefining "privacy".

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PREDICTION: Government data banks become so advanced that elections can be dispensed with. Quotes one official: "We will simply assemble the pertinent characteristics of each candidate and match them against the population's preferences. This will result in an accurate selection of the majority's choice. Not only will this be more efficient and economical, but what could be more democratic?"

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PREDICTION: Using computerized voting, the new president, (s)elected by an overwhelming majority, will be J.E. Hoover. An unidentified computer programmer, currently under investigation, was a distant second.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

In Philadelphia, from December 26-30, Science for the People held alternative sessions and conflicting actions at the annual convention of the AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science).

A few Washington, D.C., and New York CPPers went to Philadelphia to sell the booklets (see advertisement at left), and wound up confronting such featured speakers as Robert Gallati, head of the New York State criminal data bank -- NYSIIS, and Hubert Humphrey.

Like AFIPS in computers, AAAS over the years has pretty conclusively demonstrated that it is not very likely to effect any real societal change. Someone there said, "One of these days, groups like Science for the People and CPP will realize that they're wasting they're time on groups like AAAS and AFIPS."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Massachusetts Governor Francis W. Sargent has proclaimed his state "The Minicomputer State".

...a fine State of affairs....

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AWARD: For most consistent policy. To Honeywell, for extending its anti-personnel weaponry to its own striking personnel.

NATIONAL REPORT

FROM LOS ANGELES...

Computer People for Peace and the Technology Working Group have reorganized as Scientific Workers for Social Action. We are continuing our efforts against the manipulation of the US scientific and technical communities for the purposes of war and oppression. We are looking for ways of using our knowledge to help transform our society into one which is peaceful and just.

SWSA has been helping to adapt the LA Peace Action Council mailing list for computer processing. This is in line with our objective of working with other movement groups to identify possible needs for technical help in their political work. To minimize dependence on "experts" we have helped others to learn the skills needed to keypunch and maintain the list.

We have begun a regular leafletting itinerary designed to cover workplaces employing large numbers of scientific

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FROM HAWAII...

The war continues unabated: the civilian casualties continue (130,000 a month), the bombing continues (160,000 pounds an hour). Computers and electronic systems play a central role in this form of automated murder, which Senator Goldwater has called "one of the greatest steps forward in warfare since gunpowder".

On this "electronic battlefield" technicians take the place of soldiers and so a group of local peace people recently took the issues of war and peace directly to the members of the computer establishment. Organized as the "Ad Hoc Committee for Scientific Responsibility", we confronted over 300 computer professionals as they met for the Fifth Hawaii International Conference on System Sciences held January 11-13 at the University of Hawaii. It also attracted people from many of the nations largest war makers, including General Dynamics, AT&T, McDonnell Doug-

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To find out what's happening with local CPP groups or to help establish one, get in touch with our local contact.

Boston: Terry Winograd
119 Harvard Street
Cambridge, Mass. 02139

Detroit: Andy Schoene
5440 Cass Avenue, #608
Detroit, Mich. 48202

Philadelphia: Don Stone
1125 Rodman St.
Philadelphia, Pa. 19147

Poughkeepsie: Don Zitz
18 Hudson View Drive
Beacon, N.Y. 12508

Wash., D.C.: Sidney Kulick
1316 Fenwick Lane
Silver Springs, Md. 20910

Northern N.J.: Michael L. Kuras
M-13, 100 Vail Road
Parsippany, N.J. 07054

Chicago: Andrew Friedland
1132 Drummond Place
Chicago, Ill. 60614

Houston: Ken Thomson
3320-A Norfolk
Houston, Texas 77006

Los Angeles: Ken Ziedman
2342 Penmar
Venice, Ca. 90291

San Francisco: Sheldon Ellish
11 Ridgewood Avenue
San Francisco, Ca.
94112

Southern Fla.: John Delaney
c/o Chapbook
P.O. Box 319
Coconut Grove, Fla.
33133

Honolulu: Ian Y. Lind
Dept. of Political Sci.
University of Hawaii
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

Ad. continued from p. 12

people. We will be relating problems of particular concern to people like ourselves (such as "security" clearances, unemployment, and the Pentagon Papers) to the significant popular movements and the basic political issues facing all of us (such as racial oppression, the subordination of women, and American militarism and intervention in other countries).

We are discussing other projects including:

- meeting with interested employee groups at various workplaces to lead discussions, present films, and generally provoke political thinking about science and technology.

- organizing a workshop to focus on the relation of education in the sciences to the twin problems of public ignorance of science and scientists' political irresponsibility.

- working with Computer People for Peace/NY on a proposed IBM project involving research and action around IBM corporate activities.

- writing of proposals by groups of people from various fields, working out possible uses of technology to serve social needs rather than the war makers.

At this point it is crucial for many more of us to become involved. We need people to help write and distribute leaflets, to write proposals and organize around them, to develop and implement projects. For further information contact Ken Ziedman, Scientific Workers for Social Action, Box 1263, Berkeley, California 90291.

Hawaii continued from p. 12

lass, Hughes Aircraft, Ling-Tecum-Vought, Boeing, Textron, Honeywell, Raytheon, IBM, Martin Marietta, MIT, Control Data, Aerospace Corp (all of the above are in the top 100 pentagon contractors), and also the Stanford Research Institute, Office of Naval Research, Naval Weapons Center, Rand, Systems Development Corp., Institute for Defense Analysis, Air Force Flight Dynamics Lab, and others. In addition, a conference official stated that about "a quarter" of the conference funding came from the US Army Research Office.

Building on the theme "Who is Responsible?" we greeted the conference participants with leaflets describing the role of the computer in the extended air war, and illustrated the point with photographs of victims of the war. On the second day of the conference, we set up a "peace center" and distributed literature on the war and the electronic battlefield.

Conference officials continually attempted to minimize the role of the military and war-related corporations, and refused to accept the idea that they had a responsibility to be discussing the moral implications of computer technology. Our continued presence throughout the three day conference helped to break through this defensiveness, and enabled our message to reach at least some of those present.

The Ad Hoc Committee will continue its attempts to bring to light the dangers of current technological trends. If you would like to help, contact us c/o Ian Lind, Department of Political Science, University of Hawaii, 2500 Campus Rd., Honolulu 96822.

Ad. continued from p. 5

...word that they had been sold as part of the customer base (at least 2,500 out of 12,000 were). At the same time, RCA announced that remaining employees would be terminated December 31, with severance pay. I wonder how much RCA saved in severance pay by not announcing a policy for 3 1/2 months, leaving employees adrift, frantically looking for jobs where they could. ...alone, has thus far been kept by Memo ...but no one can tell him why, nor for ...

...without transportation, I have

had to remain in New Jersey to sell this house. We estimate that we have lost roughly \$5,000. So far. It is exactly one year since Jack came East. Nothing is truly resolved. Our family has been splintered for two long periods within that time, at RCA's whim. We are not unusual. We are typical, if not perhaps better off than most RCA computer employees. We have been forced to make choices that left no alternative. RCA stockholders fared slightly better--they received the highest dividend for the December 1971 quarter than ever before."

letters . . . letters

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

Just these few lines to let you know that I have received your 3 book-lets and the November Newsletter. Also, I would like to take this time to express my many thanks to you for being so kind in sending me this valuable material; even though I have no funds with which to pay you yet. I believe your work is most important because the people of this country must be made aware of the manner in which information about them is being used.

I don't know anything about computers except that they can be a useful tool if they are used properly. It appears as though there are not many of my friends and associates are of the opinion that the computer is infallible; they refuse to listen and believe that a computer is only as fool-proof as its programmer. That is to say, that they are not perfect (but then, neither are humans).

When I think of all the peaceful, non-exploitative uses that the computer could be used for, then observe the manner in which they are being used, I have to pause, look around my prison cell, and wonder just who is the real criminal.

Also, after reading the Newsletter, I noticed the article about the Attica Memorial Fund. I've been fairly active in the penal reform movement out here on the West Coast and the article about the Fund was indeed, pleasant news. Moreover, I directed a letter to Robert Weisburd asking him if the Fund might consider assisting a very deserving West Coast organization, the Committee for Prisoner Humanity & Justice. These people have worked unselfishly for penal reform out here and are now in need of funds to meet rent, phone and postage bills. Hopefully, the Attica Memorial Fund will be able to help them.

Noticed that the government is trying to classify you people as "subversive", seems as though anyone who challenges the status quo ante is suspect. Recent attempts have been made

to classify (and I don't like that word either) prisoners as subversives to justify keeping us in here longer. The U.S. of A. Secret Service came to visit me just a few weeks ago about a letter I wrote to Murder-Mouth-Agnew condemning him for his view of convicts as animals. Seems they misconstrued it as a threat against his life. I had to tell them that every time that idiot opens his mouth he self-destructs himself.

In conclusion, I just want to thank you again for sending me all of the useful material and let you know how much I appreciated it. Also I hope that you will be able to continue sending me the Newsletter.

Thanks for your attention,
Peace & Love,
Ron Wiles

I find it quite disturbing that the people who feed your computer seem so incapable of responding to my repeated statements as any of the so-called impersonal, big organizations and businesses. So, let me say it again-I am F. Laurence Pethick.

I am on your mailing list. I have paid dues for 1972. There is NO SUCH PERSON as PATRICK F. LAURENCE and you are wasting your time and money dunning non-existent people for money.

I am very sure that your computer is stupid only because somebody made it that way. So please won't somebody tell it to get smart and forget about

Patrick F. Laurence

Collective
Response:



88, continued from p. 10

In point of fact, workers in both groups are subject to the same set of health problems: those which grow out of the unhealthful work environment of an economy controlled for the profit of the large corporations.

An example of this class-blind aspect of computing work is the presence of an unhealthful noise level. While most people gudgingly accept the psychological harassment of whirring line printers, card readers, and teletypes as a necessary evil of their employment conditions, few are aware of the serious effects such exposure may have on their bodies.

The most noticeable effect is on the worker's hearing. After a noisy subway ride, you may notice that your hearing ability is reduced for a short time. This loss of hearing is known as the "temporary threshold shift" (TTS). The same effect occurs to people who have to work in a noisy environment, except that a person's TTS becomes a permanent disability after years of constant exposure to noise on the job. (1)

Hearing loss is not the only ill health effect of noise. Persistent mechanical vibrations (esp. in the 0-400 Hz range) cause both physical and chemical problems in the body. To get an idea of how this can be true, picture yourself in a quiet room; a loud noise suddenly goes off next to you. Your heart begins to race, your blood pressure and pulse suddenly increase, your hormonal system immediately begins producing adrenalin and other chemicals. This is the body's normal response to loud noises. In the noisy workplace, the body continues to respond with these defense mechanisms, and apparently does not become acclimated or immune. People exposed to noise on the job show more circulation and heart problems, equilibrium disturbance, and lowered maximal blood pressure than workers in quiet places. (2)

Added to these medically identifiable problems are the vague but no less real (if it's yours) non-specific responses of uneasiness, fatigue, irritability, and psychological discomfort. Working in constant noise gets on your nerves after a while, and the buildup of these physical effects plus the psychological anguish can make a person physically ill, especially given the tedious and boring aspects of much DP work.

The few available medical studies (2) compared office workers to factory workers, with the latter exposed to noise over 85 dB (the level of a noisy subway). Sound levels around computers tend to be lower (55 dB for a teletype, 70-80 for some line printers) and any associated health problems would therefore tend to be less severe and take longer to show up. Still, it has been shown that noise in the 65-75 dB range definitely produces non-auditory responses in humans. (3)

Until further studies are made, however, DP workers can be sure only that no matter what glamorous classification they are given to set them off from non-"professionals," the physical and mental hazards of their workplace persist. The only real strategy for battling on-the-job noise pollution is to break the artificial class distinctions and to unite with other workers to control the work environment. This includes the demand that equipment be designed or modified to reduce noise levels. The only remaining consideration is then the economic one of corporate profits versus the health of the worker.

1. K.D. Kryter, "The Effects of Noise on Man," Academic Press, NY, 1970.
2. N.N. Shatalov, A.O. Saitanov, & K.V. Glotova, "On the State of the Cardiovascular System under Conditions of Exposure to Continuous Noise," Defense Research Board, Toronto, 1962.
3. R.C. Davis, A.M. Buchward, & R.W. Frankman, Psychol. Monographs 69, No. 405 (1955).



* Run a help wanted ad for someone who can READ 5600 words per minute."

the last word on Professionalism

«

The newspaper publishers are toying with the idea of classifying their editorial staffs as 'professional men'. Since labor regulations do not cover professionals, newspapermen therefore, would continue, in many instances, to work all hours of the day and any number of hours of the week.

Obviously, the publishers, by patting their fathead employees on the head and calling them 'professionals', hope to maintain this working week. And they'll succeed, for the men who make up the editorial staffs of the country are peculiarly susceptible to such soothing classifications as 'professionals', 'journalists', 'members of the fourth estate'...and other terms which have completely entranced them by falsely dignifying and glorifying them and their work.

The men who make up the papers of this country would never look upon themselves as what they really are - hacks and white collar slaves. Any attempt to unionize would be laughed to death by these editorial hacks themselves. Union? Why, that's all right for dopes like printers, not for smart guys like newspapermen.

Yes, and those 'dopes', the printers, because of their union, are getting some 30% better than the fourth estate.

It is a little difficult for me, in spite of my radical leanings and training and yearnings, to accept wholeheartedly the conception of the boss and his wage slaves. All my very many bosses have been editors, and not a single Legree in the lot...

But the fact that newspaper editors and owners are genial folk should hardly stand in the way of the organization of a union. There should be one...I am going to do the best I can to help in getting one up. »

....A newspaper column dated August 7, 1933- by Heywood Brown. Not so long ago, was it?

Support CPP

I'd like to join. Here's my \$10.

Please put me on the mailing list.

Please send me these CPP booklets:

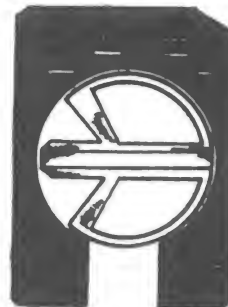
- copies of Data Banks @ 50¢
- copies of Health @ 50¢
- copies of Technological Warlords @ 1 dollar.

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